NOVACON
21

# NOVACON TWENTY ONE

## GUEST OF HONOUR COLIN GREENLAND

### FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

### EXCELSIOR HOTEL BIRMINGHAM

**CHAIRMAN** *Nick Mills*

**COMMITTEE**
*David T Cooper*
*Bernie Evans*
*Al Johnston*
*Alice & Steve Lawson*
*Chris Murphy*

**STAFF**

Creche *Vicky Evans*
Artshow *John Harold*
Bookroom *Mick Evans*

**Membership Rates** £15.00 per person. Postal memberships by 19th October.
£20.00 on the door.

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£30.00 per night single.

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Third Progress Report 28th September 1991.
Programme Book 14th September 1991.

**Bookroom Rates**
£15.00 per table for the weekend. *Dealers must be members of the convention.*

**Convention Enquiries** Bernie Evans, 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick,
Warley, West Midlands, B66 4HS.
Telephone 021 558 0997

# OFF WITH THE OLD AND ON WITH THE NEW

Good grief, is it really that time of year again? I really enjoyed being Novacon Chairman last year, and now it's time to bow out gracefully, and welcome on your behalf our new Chairman, Nick Mills.

I was going to wish him luck, but I don't think he'll need too much of that, with the hotel ALMOST trained, a terrific lot of con-goers like yourselves, and all the experience he's gathered over the last few years, added to his enthusiasm (bloody lunatic), he's going to give you all a great convention.

So, ladies and gentlemen, a big hand for the winner....NICK MILLS!!.

As there's some space left I'm going to witter a little about my famous forms. You'll all no doubt have noticed the beginning of yet another collection of forms with this PR. Yes, that's only the beginning. With each coming PR you'll get another set of what you've already had, together with the Hotel form in PR2, and the Nova voting form in PR3. I know you're sick of reading it (I'm sick of writing it!!), but it really is important that you fill them in so we can give you just what you want. The information is passed on to the various committee and staff who do all the various jabs like organising book and art show rooms, make badges, run the creche etc etc, and although they're all brilliant, they can't yet read your minds. So, fill 'em in and send 'em in, OK?

Bernie Evans

## PROGRAMME

*HARPY BIRTHDAY*

Being naive and new to Novacon committees, I happily said I would write something about the programme for PR1. The trouble is we don't actually have anything like a programme yet. Of course there will be an opening ceremony, and another ceremony near the end. A lot of other good things will happen too, but at the moment these are only ideas. (is this enough editor? NO! I didn't think it would be)

You don't <u>really</u> want to know what we have in mind do you? Knowing anything now would be nearly as bad as reading the programme book while the convention was still in progress. However it can be disclosed that we would like this Novacon to have a party theme, since it is the Twenty-First.
If you have any suggestions for programme items, please tell us.

Chris Murphy

# HAPPY TWENTY-FIRST NOVACON

It seems scarcely believable that there have been twenty Novacons and, even more incredibly, that I have been at fourteen of them. Sometimes it seems as if there has been just one Novacon spread out through the years with an occasional break for real life. This year Novacon would like to celebrate its 21st with some events which will make this landmark truly memorable. We are going to have a terrific fancy-dress party with a birthday cake and other goodies. We will also be having a competition, (see below) and we will be taking a look at the people and events of Novacons past.

This year, as last, the convention will be at the Excelsior Hotel. (For those of you who haven't attended previous Novacons there, the hotel is located close to Birmingham airport and the NEC.) I am pleased to be returning to this venue which worked well last year despite the limited space available. The new manager is even more enthusiastic than the previous one about having the convention in his hotel and understands our requirements - especially extended bar opening times.

Our guest of honour is the author and critic Colin Greenland, who has fully justified our choice by winning both the Arthur C. Clarke and BSFA awards for his recent novel *Take Back Plenty.*

I am backed by a very strong committee, the majority of whom need little introduction as they also served on last year's committee. The two newcomers are Chris Murphy who joins us after a stint as chairman of the Birmingham SF Group and Sheffield civil engineer David Cooper whose unofficial Astral Pole world record time is awaiting ratification.

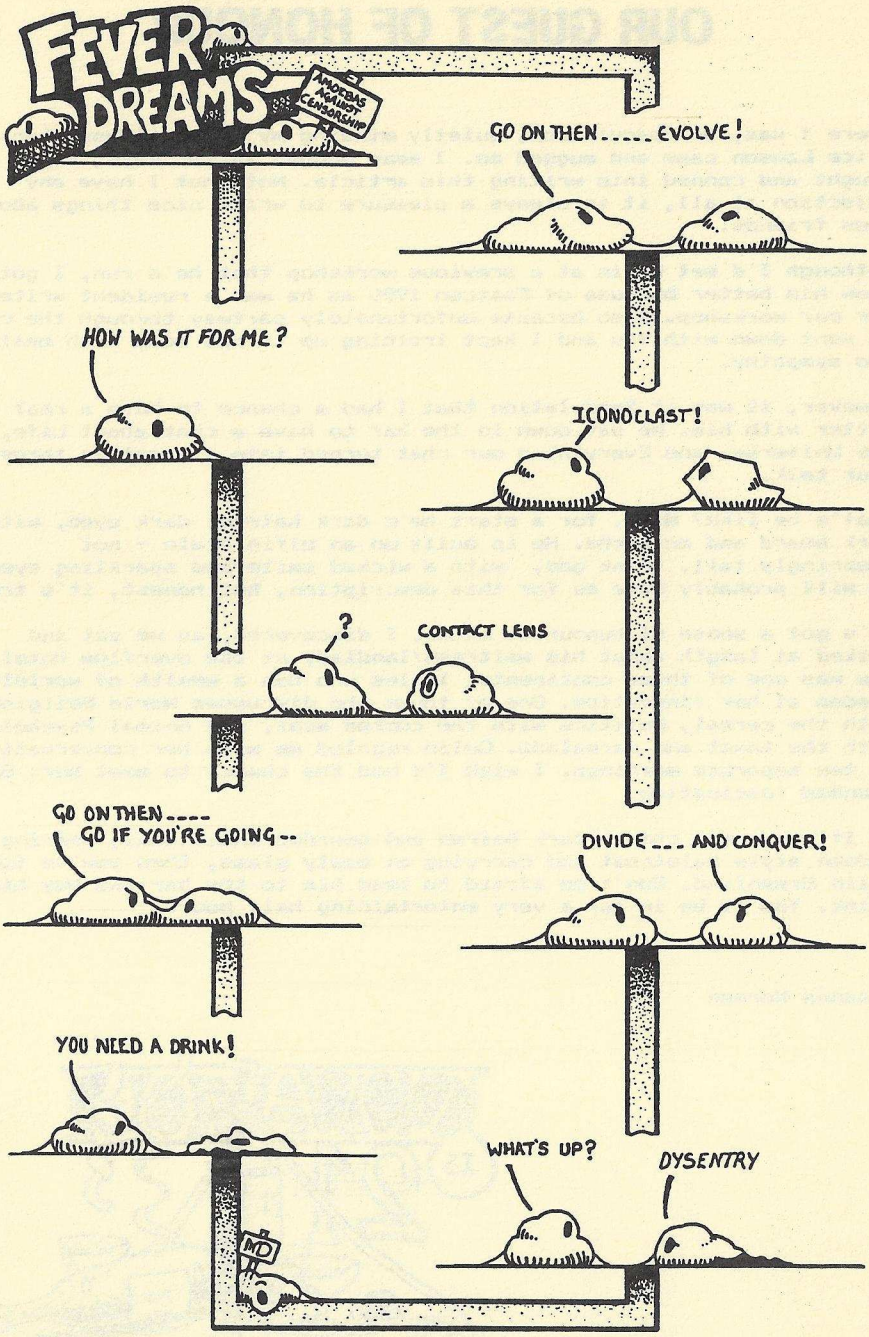
As part of our commemoration of twenty-one years of Novacons we hope to mount an exhibition illustrating the history of Novacon. If you have any photographs or other interesting material that you would be prepared to loan to the convention then please contact me.

Two forms are enclosed with this PR. If you have not yet joined the convention use the general purpose form to do so.
Use the other form to enter the now traditional snooker tournament. The hotel has new snooker tables which have been used for practice sessions by leading professionals.

COMPETITION.

As part of this year's art show there will be a competition to design a twenty-first birthday card for Novacon. Entries may be in any format and should relate to Novacon. There will be a prize for the entry judged to be the best. So start work now. More details will follow in future PRs.

Nick Mills


FEVER DREAMS
ANDREAS AGAINST CENSORSHIP
GO ON THEN..... EVOLVE!
HOW WAS IT FOR ME?
ICONOCLAST!
?
CONTACT LENS
GO ON THEN....
GO IF YOU'RE GOING--
DIVIDE ... AND CONQUER!
YOU NEED A DRINK!
WHAT'S UP?
DYSENTRY
MD

# OUR GUEST OF HONOUR

There I was, at Speculation, quietly minding my own business when Alice Lawson came and mugged me. I mean mugged in two ways, I got caught and conned into writing this article. Not that I have any objection at all, it is always a pleasure to write nice things about ones friends.

Although I'd met Colin at a previous workshop that he'd run, I got to know him better because of Eastcon 1990 as he was a resident writer for our workshop. Also because unfortunately partway through the con he went down with flu and I kept trotting up to his room with meals and sympathy.

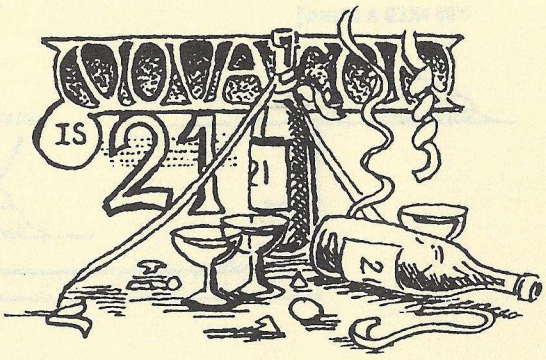
However, it was at Speculation that I had a chance to have a real natter with him. We sat down in the bar to have a chat about Life, the Universe, and Everything our chat turned into a marathon three hour talk.

What's he like? Well, for a start he's dark haired, dark eyed, with a dark beard and mustache. He is built on an elfin scale - not toweringly tall, thank god, with a wicked smile and sparkling eyes. He will probably hate me for this description, but honest, it's true!

He's got a sense of humour to match, I discovered, as we sat and talked at length about his waitress/landlady at the overflow hotel. She was one of those continental ladies who has a wealth of worldly wisdom at her fingertips. One of those who discusses World Religion with the cereal, Politics with the cooked meal, and Animal Psychology with the toast and marmalade. Colin regaled me with her conversations on two separate mornings. I wish I'd had the chance to meet her: She sounded fascinating.

So if you see a cheery dark haired and bearded individual, wearing an Andean style waistcoat and carrying an empty glass, then you've found Colin Greenland. Don't be afraid to lead him to the bar and buy him a drink. You'll be in for a very entertaining half hour.

Lisanne Norman



# NOVACON

**is run annually by the**

**BIRMINGHAM S F GROUP**

**Honorary Presidents:**

*Brian W Aldiss*

*and*

*Harry Harrison*

**Talks, Authors' signing sessions, Newsletter and Special events.**

**The BSFG meets on the third Friday of every month (unless otherwise notified) at The Ivy Bush, Hagley Road/Monument Road, Birmingham at 7.45 pm.**

**For Details contact Bernie Evans,**
**121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley,**
**West Midlands, B66 4SH.**
**Telephone - 021 558 0997**

# THE NOVA AWARDS

In 1973 the Gillon Field created the NOVA AWARD for fanzines produced by Science Fiction Fandom, and until 1981 this was presented annually at Novacon to the editor of the fanzine voted 'best of the year'. From 1982 onwards, additional Nova Awards were presented to the Fanwriter and Fanartist voted 'best of the year'. These three awards have been presented annually at Novacon ever since.

The winners at Novacon 20 were:

| | |
|---|---|
| BEST FANZINE. | Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas for FTT. |
| BEST FANWRITER. | Dave Langford. |
| BEST FANARTIST. | Dave Mooring. |

For a fanzine to qualify for the award at Novacon 21, one or more issues must have appeared between 1st October 1990 and 30 September 1991. For fanwriters and fanartist to qualify, a piece of writing or artwork by the person concerned must have been published in a fanzine for the first time between those dates. For the purposes of these awards, a 'fanzine' is defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with Science Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction and Fantasy Fans and/or related subjects, and copies of which may be generally obtained in exchange for other amateur publications or in response to letters of comment.

The fundamental idea ot the Nova Awards is that they should be awarded by informed vote. Informed votes come from informed voters, and for the purposes of these awards these are defined as any member of Novacon 21 who has been active in fanzines in Britain between 1st October 1990 and the 30th of September 1991.
"Active in fanzines" is harder to define, but the current definition states that voters must have received SIX or more fanzines during the course of the relevant year. "Fanzines" in this context means different publications, and not different issues of the same fanzine. The various official organs of a group or society will not be treated as different fanzines for the purpose of this rule.

Nova Award ballot forms will be enclosed with the third Novacon 21 progress report, and a supply will also be available at the convention itself. I hope that all of you who enjoy fanzines between now and then will bear the Novas in mind and consider how to cast your votes. In the meantime if you have any queries, comments or suggestions about the awards, please get in touch with the Nova Awards Administrator at the address below.

*HARRY BOND, 6 WOLSEY AVENUE, LONDON, E17 6RE*

*HAPPY BEARDAY*

# THANKS !

The following are letters of thanks from last years Nova Award winners.

Dear Bernie

Judith and I weren't at Novacon 20 for the same reason that we weren't at Novacon 19, namely an insufficiency of spare cash (although this was because we'd spent it an foreign travel rather than moving house), but when we heard the news of our Nova Award victory from Bridget Wilkinson on Sunday night we naturally wished that we could have been, so that we could have accepted the trophy in person. I wonder if it's possible, therefore, for you to arrange to include a note in the first progress report for Novacon 21, placing on record our gratitude to all those who voted for FTT (in whatever position on the ballot!), and indeed our delight and amazement at having won at all. We wish to assure everyone that we have no intentions of resting on these newly-granted laurels, and mean to continue publishing for as long as we can, and to produce the best fanzine of which we're capable. Our grateful thanks again!

Joseph Nicholas

Dear Bernie

Many thanks to all the committee for Novacon. I had a good time. Tell the world.
I have to shuffle a bit uneasily at this point, remembering the very rude things I've heard said in the past about cads who fail to turn up for the awards ceremony. Apologies. I had to leave early for a number of tedious reasons, and must admit that I just didn't believe I could possibly win the fanwriter trophy. Honest, if I'd suspected this I would have made some kind of arrangement, probably with Martin Hoare-- who in the event rose to the occasion with brilliance, wit and panache, or so he tells me. All my thanks to those who counted the votes so well.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the MJ-Balls fund, I'm glad to pour out yet more thanks to Novacon as a whole, to you for encouraging me to haul up the boxes of donated goodies, and especially to hero auctioneer Rog Peyton. Our £160 or so from the auction has boosted the kitty to the point where we can -- very nearly -- stop fund-raising and rest on our laurels.

Dave Langford

Dave Mooring says "ta !"

He also stated that he thought the Novas were an important way to encourage fannish talent both old and new and appreciates and thanks everyone who voted for him.

# NOVACON 20 SNOOKER REPORT

The first great injustice ocurred in the first round with probably the hottest player, me, being knocked out by the dark horse, and Mexicon programme Supremo, Colin Harris. (I might add I was cheated of victory by a fluke on a re-spotted black!) Another memorable game of the first round was Dave Ellis' encounter with Gamma. An exceedingly enjoyable game as Gamma was in his usual convention form (he hadn't slept for at least two days and his only sustenance appeared to be of the liquid variety). To no-one's surprise Dave won.

The tie of the second round had to be Critical Wave's Martin Tudor versus Andromeda's Dave Holmes. The match lived up to everyone's expectations - the standard of comedy was high (though, of course, low-brow), while the standard of snooker was even worse than anticipated. Within a mere 6 ball frame they managed to "score" over 100 points between them - the highest score of the tournament (almost all the points being awarded because of foul shots). They also managed to hold the longest match of the tournament - beating even the 15 ball games of the final rounds. Dave Holmes eventually went through 96 to 14. In contrast Rod Milner's victory over Tony Berry in the quarter final saw the only "clear" game of the tournament, with nary a foul shot played by either player.

SF Nexus' Paul Brazier - moved effortlessly into the semis where he beat the surprisingly talented Rod Milner, better luck this year Rod - a player to watch. The other semi final saw the second travesty of justice in the tournament. This year's Nova Award administrator Harry Bond had valiantly battled through three rounds to face, the ever "jammy" Steve Lawson, who had, as usual, reached the semis via the back door and a series of byes (why is it so many people "refuse" to play the man...I think we should be told). Needless to say luck triumphed over perseverance and Steve won. The final was a poor game. Paul Brazier seemed understandably nervous as Steve Lawson played his usual game, but eventually good triumphed, justice was served and Paul won!

The highest break was Paul's incredible 16 (don't laugh, it's higher than the highest break of the Novacon Nineteen tournament! We're dealing with class players here you know...). It is true to say that, as expected, good fun was had by all, although Steven Hendry can breath easy for a while yet. My final words on the tournament - I WAS ROBBED!!

Steven Tudor

HAPPY BEERDAY

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

All articles by those named, all artwork by Dave Mooring.

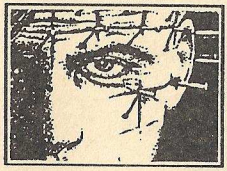
Assembled by Steve and Alice on their trusty old IBM PC XT.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST

001 Colin Greenland
002 Ellen M Pedersen
003 Nick Mills
004 Bernie Evans
005 David T Cooper
006 Steve Lawson
007 Alice Lawson
008 Al Johnston
009 Chris Murphy
010 Vicky Evans
011 Ray Bradbury
012 Vernon Brown
013 Brian Burgess
014 Stan Eling
015 Chris Morgan
016 Pauline Morgan
017 Rog Peyton
018 Greg Pickersgill
019 Tim Stannard
020 Pete Weston
021 Roger Robinson
022 Tim Broadribb
023 Andy Morris
024 Paul Brazier
025 Juliet Eyeions
026 Kay Allan
027 Ian Sorensen
028 Ver Cruttenden
029 Christopher F O'Shea II
030 Howard A Rosenblum
031 June Rosenblum
032 Helen Eling
033 Marcus L Rowland
034 William McCabe
035 Steve Jones
036 Martin Tudor
037 Pam Wells
038 Dave Ellis
039 Michael Abbott
040 Mike Stone
041 Mike Ford
042 Jack Cohen
043 Alison Tomkinson
044 Neil Tomkinson
045 Kate Solomon
046 Caroline Mullan
047 Jim Samuel
048 Larry Van Der Putte
049 Pat Brown
050 Brian Ameringen
051 D M Sherwood
052 Martin Hoare
053 John Harold
054 Tim Illingworth
055 Geoff Cook
056 Stephen Davies
057 Giulia De Cesare
058 Sue Harrison
059 Dave Thomas
060 Ina Shorrock
061 Trish Rogers
062 Dave Mooring
063 Sarah Dibb
064 Adrian Snowdon
065 Patrick Curzon
066 Melinda Young
067 Neale Mittenshaw-Hodge
068 Niall M Gordon
069 Rod Milner
070 Nic Farey
071 Paul Dormer
072 Ann Green
073 Steve Green
074 Pete Wright
075 Anne-Marie Wright
076 Mark Savage
077 David Baldwin
078 Kati Wright
079 Peter Mabey
080 Philip Bell
081 Rhodri James
082 Brett Cockrell
083 James Steel
084 Chris Bell
085 Ian Brooks
086 Barbara Kershaw
087 Chris Brooks
088 Dave Cox
089 Colin Langeveld
090 Sue Mason
091 Bridget Wilkinson
092 Rafe Culpin
093 Karen Heenan
094 Rob Meades
095 Alice Kohler
096 Dave French
097 Shirley French
098 Linda Parkin
099 John West
100 Steve Grover

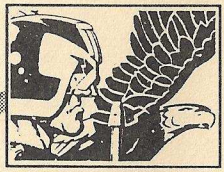
science fiction

fantasy



horror

comics



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